

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 FBOE-00 A-01 /016 W  
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R 150510Z MAY 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO USIA WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0128

UNCLAS TOKYO 6397

USIAC

USIA FOR IEA AND IOP/C

SECSTATE FOR CU AND A/FBO

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PROPOSED BICENTENNIAL SCULPTURE PROJECT IN JAPAN

REF: (A) STATE A-5052-U, JUNE 20, 1974, (B) BONN'S A-396,  
AUGUST 5, 1974

SUMMARY: POST REQUESTS INFORMATION ON BICENTENNIAL DONATIONS  
BY OTHER MAJOR U.S. ALLIES, TO ASSIST IN EXPLORING JAPANESE  
INTEREST IN BICENTENNIAL DONATION OF OUTDOOR SCULPTURE FOR  
NEW CHANCERY BUILDING. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN EXAMINING POSSIBILITY OF ENCOURAGING  
JAPANESE PROJECT FOR DONATION OF SUITABLE MAJOR OUTDOOR  
SCULPTURE FOR NEW CHANCERY BUILDING, AS PART OF JAPANESE  
PARTICIPATION IN CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICEN-  
TENNIAL. DONATION WOULD BE SPONSORED BY BROAD RANGE OF  
JAPANESE PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS.

2. SUCH A PROJECT WOULD CONSTITUTE TANGIBLE, LONG-LASTING  
SYMBOL IN JAPAN OF THE CLOSE AND ENDURING RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN JAPAN AND U.S. IT COULD BE VERY VALUABLE SUPPLE-  
MENT TO OTHER BICENTENNIAL PROJECTS PROPOSED BY JAPANESE  
WHICH WOULD HAVE ONLY TRANSITORY IMPACT. IT WOULD NOT  
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REQUIRE EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE SUMS OF MONEY AND IT WOULD BE

RELATIVELY SIMPLE TO CARRY OUT.

3. FIRST STEP WOULD BE TO STIMULATE INTEREST OF EXISTING JAPANESE ORGANIZATION OR GROUP OF KEY INDIVIDUALS TO FORM COMMITTEE FOR THIS PURPOSE AND ASSURE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. COMMITTEE WOULD COMMISSION WORK BY JAPANESE SCULPTOR THROUGH DESIGNATION OR (PREFERABLE, FROM OUT POINT OF VIEW) COMPETITION. WOULD AIM FOR COMPLETION BY SUMMER 1976 WHEN NEW BUILDING TO BE DEDICATED AND OCCUPIED.

4. AS EXPO 70 AND OTHER MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE SHOWS DEMONSTRATE, MANY JAPANESE SCULPTORS FULLY CAPABLE DESIGN DIGNIFIED, HIGH-QUALITY ORIGINAL WORKS OF LASTING ARTISTIC VALUE. SHOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY ASSURING THAT SCALE, TONE, AND CONTENT OF THE SCULPTURE SELECTED IN KEEPING WITH BOTH LOCATION AND FUNCTION.

5. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT FBO IS CONSIDERING FEASIBILITY AND ACCEPTABILITY THIS PROPOSAL AND WILL COMMUNICATE ITS DECISION SHORTLY.

6. MEANWHILE, EMBASSY HAS EXPLORED IDEA ON VERY INFORMAL TENTATIVE BASIS WITH KEY JAPANESE CONTACTS WHO IN POSITION TO EXERCISE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE OVER DECISION REGARDING SUCH A PROJECT AND FUND RAISING. THEIR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE WAS TO INQUIRE WHETHER PROJECTS OF THIS KIND ARE PLANNED BY MAJOR WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OR OTHER CLOSE ALLIES OF U.S.

7. POST HAS REVIEWED INFORMATION IN REPAIRS AND IN LATEST AVAILABLE BINET REGISTER (JANUARY 1975). MOST CLOSELY COMPARABLE PROJECTS APPEAR TO BE GERMAN PROPOSAL FOR DONATION OF ZEISS PROJECTORS TO SMITHSONIAN PLANETARIUM AND SUGGESTION THAT REPLICA OF STATUE OF BERNARDO GALVEZ BE DONATED BY SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO WASHINGTON, PENSACOLA, OR GALVESTON.

8. POST WOULD APPRECIATE AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THESE PROPOSALS AND ON ANY SIMILAR PROJECTS NOT DESCRIBED IN REPAIRS. DETAILS ON COSTS AND ON PUBLIC UNCLASSIFIED

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AND/OR PRIVATE SOURCES OF FUNDING WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL. THIS WILL BE EXTREMELY USEFUL AS WE CONTINUE TO SOUND OUT JAPANESE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO LAUNCH THIS PROJECT ONCE FBO APPROVAL IS RECEIVED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**To:** USIA  
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